

REMARKS

This amendment is filed under 37 C.F.R. §1.312, which permits entry of amendments after allowance and before payment of the issue fee, upon recommendation of the primary examiner.¹

Claims 1-8, 10-13, and 15-38 are currently pending. Claims 13, 24-32, 37, and 38 have been amended by the present amendment to recite “a mechanism configured to” rather than “a mechanism for” language. This change is consistent with Applicants' figures and specification, and is thus not believed to raise a question of new matter.

Furthermore, the proposed amended claims are not believed to require additional search or examination because they merely clarify Applicants' invention. Because the present claims are allowed, the proposed claims are believed to be allowable.

¹See MPEP 714.16.

Based on the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present amendment is (A) needed for proper protection of the invention, and (B) requires no substantial amount of additional work on the part of the office.² Accordingly, entry of this amendment is thus respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870
Kurt M. Berger, Ph.D.
Registration No. 51,461

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)
KMB/rac

I:\ATTY\KMB\215's\215808US\215808US.AM-312.DOC

Gregory J. Maier
Registration Number 25,599

²See MPEP 714.16 stating that when amendments "are shown (A) to be needed for proper disclosure or protection of the invention, and (B) to require no substantial amount of additional work on the part of the Office, they may be considered and, if proper, entry may be recommended by the primary examiner."